GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4451
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002
SICKLE CELL DISEASE
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the prevalence of Sickle Cell disease in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States which are affected by this Sickle Cell disease;

(d) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has made a survey on prevalence of Sickle Cell disease and submitted any report to the Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the measures taken by the Government for control and cure of this disease;

(g) whether some voluntary organizations are working on the project to control Sickle Cell disease; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the financial assistance provided by the Government to them?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA)

(a)to(f): Sickle Cell anemia is a genetic disease and is prevalent in different parts of the country. The frequency distribution of sickle cell gene varies from 0-44% in the country. The States affected by this disease are Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Bihar. A multi centric study in four States of the country, namely; Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa & Tamil Nadu on Primitive Tribal population has been taken up by ICMR where folic acid, multi-vitamin and deworming tablets are being provided to the affected children. Also genetic counseling is being provided to young couples, unmarried sickle cell carriers and married couples who are sickle cell carriers.

(g) & (h): Number of Voluntary agencies like Valsad Raktdan Kendra, Gujarat, Nilgiri Adivasiassociation Kotagiri and Sickle Cell Society of India, Nagpur.are working in different States. ICMR has released an amount of Rs.16,51,400/-to the Nilgiri Adiwasi Association Kotagiri and an amount of Rs.17,19,500/- to theVulsad Raktdan Kendra, Vulsad for conducting research under the multicentric study.